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The first educational philosophy that appealed to me the most is constructivism. Constructivism is an educational philosophy that emphasizes developing personal meaning through hands-on and activity based teaching and learning. I agree with this because I think it really helps students to be able to see what the things they are learning are used for. For example, right now I have a field experience class where I go to a high school and I get to observe the teacher. The class I attend is a 10th grade geometry class and some of the things they learn about may seem boring and like they have no use. The teacher that I observe in that class does a great job of coming up with activities to help the students learn the concepts that he is teaching. He relates his math lessons to things that the students may never have thought had to do with math. When he shows them how useful some of these concepts can be I think it really helps the students to retain the information and understand it better. Sometimes he gives them activities and allows them to work together in group which I also think is very helpful because it allows them to talk to their peers and work out ideas that they have to eventually come to the right conclusion. In some classes teachers will just lecture to the class the entire time and they don’t give students any opportunities learn in the way that is best for them. It is important for teachers to use a variety of teaching methods so that students can succeed to the best of their ability.

The second educational philosophy that stood out to me is progressivism. Progressivism is an educational theory that emphasizes that ideas should be tested by experimentation and that learning is rooted in questions developed by learners. One of the reasons I like this philosophy is because Progressivists favor the scientific method, allow for the beliefs of each individual and stress programs of students involvement that help students learn how to think. I think it is really important for each individual to learn how to think and come up with questions on his or her own. It is important for students to be able to come up with their own ideas and questions about learning instead of just being taught things that they are not interested in. I think it is becoming more common for students not to think and come up with their own ideas and questions anymore because their way of learning is so structured. We have specific classes that teach specific things and have requirements that need to be met, but there isn’t time for students to ask questions. They have to learn what they are being taught because that is what the teacher thinks is important or because they are going to have standardized testing in that area. They don’t have time to come up with their own questions and thoughts. Now they are getting so used to being told the things they need to learn that they don’t allow themselves to come up with things they want to learn and questions that they want to find the answers to on their own. Another big problem with students learning things on their own is technology. Whenever students have a question about something it is so easy for them to access the Internet to find the answer quickly rather than allowing themselves time to figure out the answers on their own. I think it is really important for teachers to allow students the time and resources to be able to think on their own instead of rely on others to always tell them what to think.